



By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

“Two words—tenacity and determination,” said Coach Penny Hite.

The Lady Plainsmen got past Southwest in four sets in sub-district play Nov. 2 against Southwest, but were unable to defeat Bridgeport Friday night as their final conquest for a state berth.

“We struggled to keep strong offensively,” said Hite. “But we can’t hang our heads—we had a great season and improved so much.”



Hite is proud of the girls for their hard work throughout the year. Friday's challenge was just too much for the team, even though she felt they were ready for the match.

"Sometimes fear overtakes them and they get passive," said Hite. "Bridgeport really did a good job of taking us out of serve receive."

After downing Southwest at Hershey to capture the C2-11 title and improve their record to 24-7 on the year, the Lady Plainsmen advanced to the C2-6 district final in Chappell to face C2-12 sub-district champs, the Southwest Lady Roughriders.

It took four sets, but the victorious Lady Plainsmen were on their way to district finals with winning sets of 25-21, 22-25, 25-11 and 25-22.

They pulled off a win in the first set against the Bridgeport Lady Bulldogs 25-17, then lost in the second set 20-25.

Rebounding, the Lady Plainsmen captured the third set 25-21 before being defeated 20-25 and 9-15 in the last two of a five-set match up against the Panhandle team.

Coach Hite said senior Jessica Day will be greatly missed by her teammates.

"She really played her heart out," said Hite, also commending sisters Tanya and Shania Metcalf for playing well and keeping the team in the game both offensively and defensively.

Sophomore Gabrielle Patrick had some very big plays, including shutting down a Bridgeport player to get back in the game, said Hite, also pointing to Matisyn Humphrey's solid defense.

The girls miss out on an opportunity to take on state challengers a little closer to home this year.

The first round of the state volleyball tournament is to be played in Hastings (today) Nov. 11, with the semi- and finals moving to Grand Island on Nov. 12-13.

Bridgeport

25-17, 20-25, 25-21, 20-25, 9-15

Kills: T. Osler 14, S. Metcalf 11, T. Metcalf 10, M. Humphrey 7, G. Patrick 4, S. Pollard 1.
Blocks: T. Metcalf 15 (1 ace), S. Metcalf 12 (2 ace), G. Patrick 6 (1 ace), K. Beck 4 (1 ace), M. Humphrey 2, T. Osler 1 (ace). Set assists: K. Beck 42, T. Osler 1, S. Metcalf 1. Ace serves: T. Metcalf 4, S. Metcalf 2, J. Day 2, one each: K. Beck, M. Humphrey, T. Osler, S. Pollard.

Southwest

25-21, 22-25, 25-11, 25-22

Kills: T. Osler 13, S. Metcalf 11, G. Patrick 11, T. Metcalf 8, M. Humphrey 6. Blocks: T. Metcalf 15 (6 ace), S. Metcalf 13 (5 ace), G. Patrick 6 (1 ace), T. Osler 6 (3 ace), M. Humphrey 2 (1 ace), S. Pollard 1 (ace). Set assists: K. Beck 41, one each: G. Patrick, S. Pollard, S. Metcalf. Ace serves: Two each: T. Metcalf, M. Humphrey, T. Osler, S. Pollard, S. Metcalf; one each: K. Beck, J. Day.

